

THE LAND.

(From the Sydney Mail, June 24.)

THE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY. The busy, the wine and the Exhibition Committee, which consists mainly of the stewards of the various departments, met to nominate judges for the forthcoming show. This, we need not remind you, is a most important proceeding. The usefulness and success of the Society depends on the unimpeachable character of its awards, and the awards depend on the capability and impartiality of the judges. The attempt is made, by the introduction of the point system, to obtain carefully considered and well-founded judgments, and, we believe, whatever may be its faults, that this mode of adjudication will be attended with good results. There are difficulties in carrying it out. All new propositions are put before the conservative class of people, who do not like the trouble of considering the bearings of what is new. But this is a wholesome effect. Without conservatism, our modes of action would be for ever varying, and there would be nothing like concurrence of action. Although it is introduced, it is likely that the point system will be some years in coming to perfection. The farmers of the United States, who are advanced in most things, determine their prices by the point system. They adopt the following qualities, but against each the maximum points to be attained, these maxima altogether making 100. Impurity, the pedigree is set forth. Then there is the head, 3; the face, 2; the eye, 2; the horns, 1; the neck, 2; the chest, 14; the breast, 5; the ribs, 5; the loins, 5; the pelvis, 2; the twist, 3; the quarters, 5; the carcass, 4; the flanks, 3; the leg, 2; the plates, 3; the tail, 2; the carriage, 2; quality, 15. Against this appears the following remark: "On the thinness, the quality of the country, the value of the animal depend; and upon the touch of this quality substance, which, however, becomes firmer as the animal ripens. A thin paper skin is objectionable, more especially in a cold climate. The coat, 2; the udder, 3." The Society's stewards, who are 100 in number, making 1000 the aggregate of the maxima. The real aim of all this analysis is, of course, to distinguish the standards of perfection, so that those who wish for information may be able to gain it. They will be directed through the award papers to the animals and objects which are generally supposed to be most worthy of imitation. But in the case of pedigree animals, we can see that a difficulty will arise, if the character of the pedigree is to be taken into consideration, because many a judge will prefer an unexceptionable pedigree and an indifferent beast to an indifferent pedigree and an unexceptionable beast. A visitor may thus come to two animals—the eye very different. According to the rules of the Society, his verdict will be very different from that of the judge's who will possibly have given the prize to the worst looking animal on the score of his nobler ancestry. What is hidden—that is to say latent and implied worth—is preferred to what is seen.

Mr. William Macarthur moved the Council to form a deputation to wait upon the Minister for Lands with reference to the survey of the Nepean River, from Menangle Bridge to Leithfield, for the purpose of determining whether the water should be done to facilitate the flow of water seaward, and abate the damages effected by flood water. The report of a competent surveyor would afford a basis whereon an equitable arrangement might be made between the landowners and occupiers on each side, to give such suggestions the force of law. It is well that such an experiment should be made. If it turns out that by co-operating together the landowners of this important district can improve their own circumstances with very little trouble and expense, the example may be followed elsewhere. Such a survey is, we believe, being made.

It will be seen from the letter of the Secretary of the Silk Association in London, to Mr. Charles Thorne, of Concord, that the cocoons sent home by the latter gentleman, for the exhibition in the English market, Mr. Cobb is decidedly cool upon the sample. One would have supposed that the Secretary of a society avowedly established to encourage silk culture—especially in the British Dominions—would have been at more pains to give such suggestions respecting the tentative cocoons sent as might prove useful to colonial growers. But this does not seem to be Mr. Cobb's idea. His information is as sparse and hazy as it could be. He seems to have been told to say as little as he could. However, Mr. Thorne gathers encouragement from the utterance. Silk growing will pay. The sample cocoons sent is no better, if so good, as the best he already produces, and selection will bring up the whole to the required standard. It may suggest, however, that it is in size that the improvement is wanted, but in the quality of silk. The sample forwarded is thick, heavy, brilliant in colour, and rich in appearance. Mr. Thorne depended much on the Cape mulberry; it is possible that his silk may be poor in quality consequence. We cannot say, but we may have something to say about the profit appearing on a comparison of the cost and return.

The proprietors of this journal have issued a CIRCULAR to the SUGAR GROWERS containing the following questions. They have been sent through the post to those growers who have not yet responded to the application; but should there be any others desirous of stating their experience for the public benefit, they will be glad to receive them in categorical answers to the questions now proposed:

1. The name and address of the grower;
2. The number of acres of each of the varieties of cane specified; namely, Light Purple, Dark Purple, Ribbon, Red, or Bourbon, or other, and the colour of the cane, Java, China, or other;
3. Date of planting;
4. Date of last cutting;
5. State the number of acres planted since January, 1870, together with what was done in preparation;
6. Estimate of the value of the cane in rows in the ground, and the value of the cane cut and sold, and the price at which sold;
7. State whether the land is sown with pipes, stones, &c.;
8. How and where the cane is cut, including growing time, rest, &c., between cutting and cutting, stating number of men;
9. State the number of tons of cane cut and sold, and the price at which sold;
10. General remarks.

The Darling Downs Gazette is lachrymose. According to the authority the abandonment of eight hundred and ninety runs in the interior and unsettled districts is sadly at variance with the vaunted theme of Queensland prosperity, as depicted by Mr. Douglas. Perhaps it is. Let us see what are supposed to be the causes of the recession. The journal mentioned states four:—1st, the increase of wool, and the consequent depreciation in value; 2nd, the speculative mode of purchasing station properties; 3rd, the extra expense contingent upon stations being upon unsettled districts; 4th, the unsuitability of stock and inland routes. In proof of the first proposition, the quantities and prices of wool shipped to England since 1859 are shown—beginning with 549,264 bales at 33d. 10, and terminating with 549,264 bales at 15d. per lb., these being at once the highest and the lowest rates. But this table represents the whole of the wool shipped from Sydney, of course including the Queensland wool. The writer of the article in question says that the brokers, when asked to account for this consistent fall, attributed it to the fact that the wool was of inferior quality of a large portion of it. But this could not be, it is urged, since, with the exception of the Port Phillip wool, Sydney and Queensland wool stands before the wools of Adelaide, Tasmania, New Zealand, and the Cape from 1859 to 1870. It is therefore concluded that the excessive proportion of the supply to the demand is the true cause. Probably some of the New South Wales breeders might object to their average being diluted with the Queens-

land average. There is in their opinion so little good wool in Queensland that the effect of the junction would be to deteriorate the quality, and give a preponderance to the quality required for army purposes in 1871, but not in 1870. New South Wales, so far as price is concerned, would do better without Queensland than with her. If this objection be true, it may be that Queensland is suffering from want of knowledge, or a mistaken employment of territory, placing sheep where sheep had no business, and will, under existing circumstances, never pay to be.

With respect to speculation in station property, the D. D. Gazette makes the following statement, which, taken from the seat of the disease more than from the former probe:

A cash transaction for station property is a matter of such rare occurrence, that we rarely are not effected once in a thousand purchases, the usual mode of procedure being to sell on credit, and the residue in bills extending over a period of years, bearing interest from ten to twelve per cent, secured upon the property; the whole of the wool and stock for sale having to pass through the hands of the mortgagee, and chargeable with commission, the supply of ration and all other goods through the same hands, and the whole of the proceeds being paid into the hands of the cash advanced for current expenses.

If such burdens as these can be borne and yet a profit made, sheep-farming must be a more paying concern than most people have any idea of. But beyond the interest of money there is the expense of carriage to those distant parts—the carriage of produce from the interior to the coast, and the carriage of goods from the coast to the station. The writer seems to think that the land is suited to sheep, but that the mode of present occupation gives no notion of their business. They fancy as a rule that one animal is as good as another, and that the prime object to be obtained is two lambs from one ewe annually. "Impecuniosity also obliges them to keep their sheep in large numbers, and to sell them in small lots and at the lowest prices."

The fact is, that a grand mistake has been made, and that our neighbours are about to retrieve their position by breeding cattle instead of sheep. According to the rules of the Society, his verdict will be very different from that of the judge's who will possibly have given the prize to the worst looking animal on the score of his nobler ancestry. What is hidden—that is to say latent and implied worth—is preferred to what is seen.

The Melbourne Economist, in an article dealing with the value of artificial grass, gives the following example:—A well-known Victorian grazier assures us that, at last shearing he sheared no less than 27,000 sheep from 3000 acres of land, and having now some 2000 additional acres he expects to shear no less than 50,000. It is well known that the writer's estimate of how long a time these sheep had been feeding on this expanse of artificial grass. We are acquainted with the value of such grass; some grasses in a moist season will fatten four or five sheep per acre. Lucerne and clover have been known to fatten eight sheep to the acre for a time, but it is implied that 50,000 will exist the year through on 3000 acres, which is a little strong.

The Western Examiner denounces the late Agricultural Returns of the DISTRICT OF ORANGE. The Registrar of the district census does not correspond with the previous returns in the Statistical Register. The latter states the holdings exceeding 1 acre to cover 287,018 acres, the census affirms them to cover 151,216 acres. This is a third less than the district held from the last census. The Registrar shows that in cultivation last year to have been 39,950 acres; the census 16,848 acres; the area cultivated for wheat, according to the Registrar, 11,871 acres, according to the Registrar 11,871 acres. The production of wheat by the census was 11,871 bushels; by the Registrar 11,871 bushels. The Registrar shows that the area cultivated for wheat was 11,871 acres; the census affirms them to cover 151,216 acres. This is a third less than the district held from the last census. 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THE COLLECTIVE WISDOM OF NEW
SOUTH WALES

[illegible]

one of the many of your readers to whom it must appear objectionable and unfounded—*objectionable*, because it introduces, but a side-riding, matter of ecclesiastical controversy into a discourse intended to exclude that, and *unfounded*, except in his own eyes *diest*. The passage to which I refer is this:—
 "What a sad heart-rendering spectacle does the present condition of the Church of England afford to the eye of contrast her with the Church of Jerusalem in apostolic times, when St. James, as bishop of that diocese, presided over the whole college of apostles—even St. James, the brother of our Lord, who was the first president of the Church catholic in these thrilling words, 'Therefore *my sentence is*, that we trouble not them, which from the Gentiles are turned to God.' (Acts xv. 2.)" *My sentence*!—*my sentence*!—*my sentence*! This assumes diocesan episcopacy as the government of the early Church, and bases it on the supposed facts that James was bishop of the diocese of Jerusalem, and that the other apostles were his suffragans, were subordinate to James—that he presided as episcopal judge, and pronounced the depository sentence.

Now, Sir, while persons brought up in a traditional and unreflecting belief in diocesan episcopacy and infallibility, may take all this as a matter of course and as gospel, you have thousands of readers, I am persuaded, that, like myself, look on it as a mere tradition, and one requiring to be proved as fact in history a vindication of the ambiguous ecclesiastical

arrangements that are totally unaccounted by the Spirit and Word of God. There is no conclusive proof in scripture that St. James ever was bishop of Jerusalem, and that he was bishop of Jerusalem, of the Jerusalem diocese, of which he was bishop. It is reasonable to suppose that the Churches organised by Paul were formed after the model of the mother Church, and that the same model was followed in the selection in rank among the clergy. In Acts xx. 17, it is recorded—"And from Miletus [Paul] sent to Ephesus, and called for the *elders* of the Church." At the 23rd verse it is said—"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, in the which the Holy Ghost hath made you *overseers*," etc. This last word "overseers" is that which is everywhere else in the New Testament translated "bishops," which, but for the use of the word *overseers*, would be true, it would no doubt have been translated here also. Had it been translated so, then every reader would, with a glance of the eye, have seen that *elders* or presbyters were the bishops of the Churches of the New Testament Church, whose business it was, as Paul exhorted, to pastorize the Church of God, which he had purchased with His own blood. Let Mr. MacArthur should think me a prejudiced interpreter. I fear him, for the sake of the great numbers of his hearers, who, in 17, in which, with admirable criticism, and still more admirable candour, he refutes the false gloss of Irenaeus on this text, who introduced into it words which were not in the text, and who, in Christian apostasy, set a false distinction among Christians. Aford could not in his comments on these words—"So early did the interested and disingenuous interpretations begin to cloud the

But when scripture might have thrown
on ecclesiastical tradition the weight of
has hardly died fairly in the East, even with
the sacred text, in rendering episcopos (v. 28) "overseers,"
whereas it ought there, as in all other places, to have
been "bishops." The words "episcopos and bishops" having
been originally also epotytically synonymous, may be
apparent to the ordinary English reader, who will think it
is not." Thus the Church of Ephesus had several
elders or bishops, and no one is addressed as having
the authority of the apostles, or as the Apostles
claimed or exercised such authority.

St. James may have presided by common consent,
as first among equals, over the gathering of "apostles,
elders, and brethren" at Jerusalem. But there is no
valid proof that he did so. The words "the apostles" may
be words "therefore my sentence is," as if they
must necessarily imply presidency. But for
proof that they must not do so, I refer Mr. M. to
another passage in the Acts, where the words "the
who renders" my judgment or decided opinion (on
the matter) is. So Thucyd. iv. 60, &c.; see Dr.
Bloomfield in loco. I may also refer to the same

the original in *kosmos*, i. e., one man against another, rather than *ecumenical*, as every day says. Here the Greek verb, twice rendered *ecumenical*, is precisely the same as is rendered "my countrymen."

I am admiring the fearless tone of truth with which Mr. Macarthur defends the Public school system against the puzzling subtleties and special pleadings of the Church of the Holy Innocents, and I should not have noticed his ecclesiastical disqualifications, if he had not been answered, many of your readers would deem them unwelcome.

I remain, Mr. Editor, your obedient servant,

JOHN GRAHAM

Ashfield, June 23rd.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

SIR,—In my former letter I started with the assertion that little or no dependence could be placed on the derivation of a compass, found by swinging a ship, as at present adopted by the Admiralty. I stated that the error of such a compass would be found daily. I now assert that it should be found every six hours—that a celestial object is seen. Your correspondence has been so full of errors, that I have not time to reply and regulation are, or ought to be known, by all commanders. It appears from what he writes—about the brass instrument, that he has not been acquainted with the instrument acquainted with them. The A. S. N. Co.'s were the only

nearly east and west; consequently, the needle of a compass will be nearly right angles with the spindle of the wheel; hence, the spindle of the wheel will be nearly horizontal, or lying north and south, there would have been little or no attraction. I neither stated nor implied that the spindle of the wheel exposed, its effect was immediate on the compass. Is the "Old Soldier" aware that the pole of the magnet will attract and repels accordingly? Does he also know that iron galvanised, covered with wood, brass, or canvas, or any other substance, will not be affected by the magnetic attractions, and in many cases from covered is composed of iron? I mentioned nothing about laws for adjusting compasses, but merely that methods for finding the error at sea were known, and that the compass was used by the navigators for finding the error of the compass at sea for finding the ship's position.

Is the "Old Soldier" aware that a ship without a compass register is liable to capture. Perhaps when he (avoids) going with any farther remarks he will hasten his number, and oblige

C. V. P. CHATFIELD.

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rooms, bath, gas, central heating, rent, £50, Sec. 45.

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TO LET, a nice **SHOP**, in a good neighbourhood, suitable for a baby linen warehouse, milliner, or dressmaker. Apply to **Mr. England**, furniture warehouse, South Head Road.

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TO LET, a neatly-furnished HOUSE, in Victoria-street, overlooking the Domain and Harbour, containing 10 rooms and kitchen. Apply Alexander Moore and Co., Pitt-street.

TO LET, Lavender Bay, North Shore, a delightfully situated **COTTAGE**, containing hall, 4 rooms with large sitting room, and kitchen at rear. Key at Dint's Office. Apply to Baynes, Treves, and Co., Mac's Rooms, Pitt-street.

TO LET, a COTTAGE (at the junction of the Parramatta and Petersham Cemetery Roads), containing 4 rooms; kitchen, servant's room, laundry, coach-house, and stable. Rent, £15 per week. S. Levin, Auctioneer, 104, King-street.

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streets, Monday, June 28, 1957.